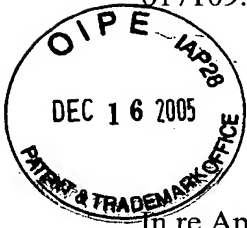


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017109.0360

PATENT APPLICATION
USSN: 10/688,675

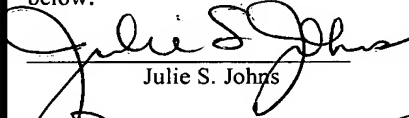
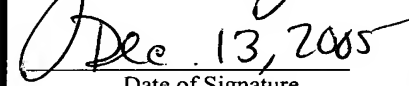


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Humble, et al.
Serial No.: 10/688,675
Filing Date: October 17, 2003
Confirmation No.: 2628
Group Art Unit: 3739
Title: *System And Method For Removing A Protective Cover From A Medical Instrument*

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.


Julie S. Johns

Date of Signature

Dear Sir:

Third Request for Status

Please advise the status of the above-identified patent application. The Filing Receipt was received March 29, 2004. Applicants are currently awaiting a first Office Action.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
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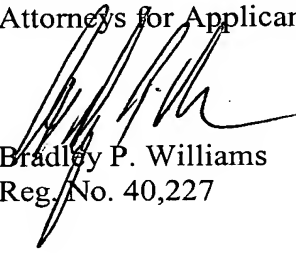
PATENT APPLICATION
USSN: 10/688,675

REMARKS

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.702(a)(1), it has been over fourteen months since the filing date of this Application and a Notification under 35 U.S.C. § 132 has not been received. Thus, a period of adjustment of patent term due to examination delay is accruing in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.703(a)(1).

If there are any matters that can be cleared up through a telephone conversation, please contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants


Bradley P. Williams
Reg. No. 40,227

Date: _____

12/13/05

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer No.: **05073**